(e) to (g) The Ministry has taken various steps to popularize the use of Non-Conventional Energy throughout the country, and launched an exclusive Web Sites on non-conventional energy programmes through the Internet. The Ministry is also organizing business meets, exhibitions, training programmes, seminars etc. and bringing out periodic News Letters as an alternate strategy to popularize the use of non-conventional energy sources.

Power from Organic Compost Manure

†2852. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that electricity is being generated from organic compost manure at Idar in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, what is the per unit cost of the electricity generation;

(c) whether it is a fact that 4000 Megawatt electricity can be generated from the organic compost manure using the excreta of the adult cattle in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the plans of the Government to generate electricity by using the manure of the cattle ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The biogas produced from a cattle dung based plant at Idar Pinjarapole Gaushala in Gujarat State is being used for generation of electricity in a 10 kVA diesel generator set.

(b) The cost of generation of electricity from biogas at Idar Pinjarapole Gaushala is estimated to be about Rs. 3.37 per kWh.

(c) The estimated total quantity of cattle dung produced in the country could generate biogas equivalent to about 10,000 MW electricity.

(d) Under the Central Sector Scheme-Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants Programme, large sized biogas plants are being popularised for generation of electricity, besides meeting the cooking fuel requirements. A target of setting up of 400 such plants has been proposed for the year 2000-2001. Under a separate programme, a demonstration project on bio-methanation of cattle dung for generation of one MW power is proposed to be set up at Haboewal Dairy Complex in Ludhiana city, Punjab.

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†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.